SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5295**

3	2							5
	1		6	2	7	4		
		4	8				1	
		1	9			5		7
					5			
							4	8
		8			2			
				9	4	3		
	3	9	1	7			6	4

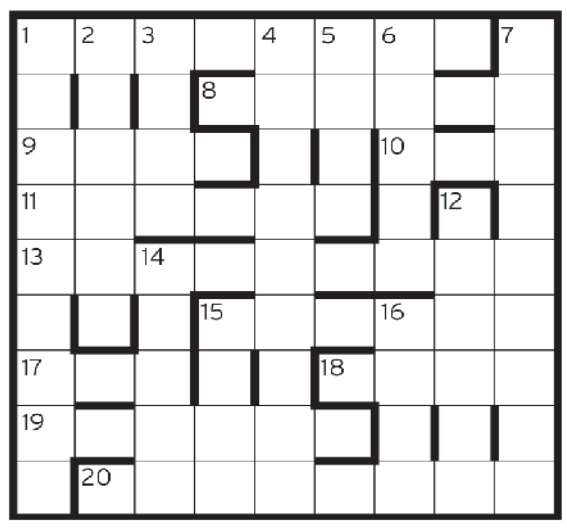
TRICKY **B5295**

	5		3		1			
4		8	2	6		3		
9								
			4			2		
	3					1	4	
						9		
		7	9			4	5	
6				5				2
		4	6	8				

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD



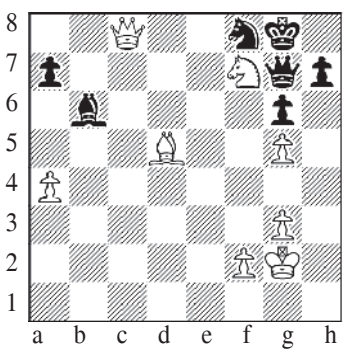
ACROSS

1 Blue gemstone (8)
8 Worship (6)
9 Sword handle (4)
10 Zero points (3)
11 Cream cake (6)
13 Without delay (5,4)
15 A bribe (3-3)
17 Variety of lettuce (3)
18 Having two parts (4)
19 Branched horn (6)
20 Type of wallpaper (8)

DOWN

1 Globular (9)
2 _ Vikander, actress (6)
3 Tug (4)
4 Aids teeth (anag.) (9)
5 _ Novello, composer (4)
6 Refresh (5)
7 Flat dive (5,4)
12 African wildlife trip (6)
14 Enthusiasm (5)
15 Sport played on horseback (4)
16 Cry of pain (4)

CHESS

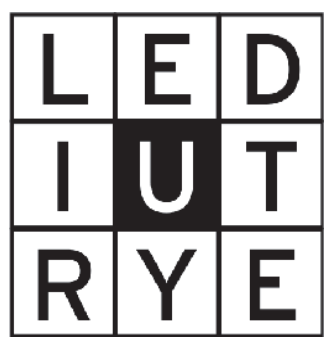


WHITE TO PLAY

HINT: WIN BLACK'S KNIGHT.

Solution:
1. Nd8ch! Kh8 2. Ne6! (attacking the pinned knight and the queen) [Al Sayed-Gupta '14]

TARGET



HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 15;

Very good 22;

Excellent 29 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

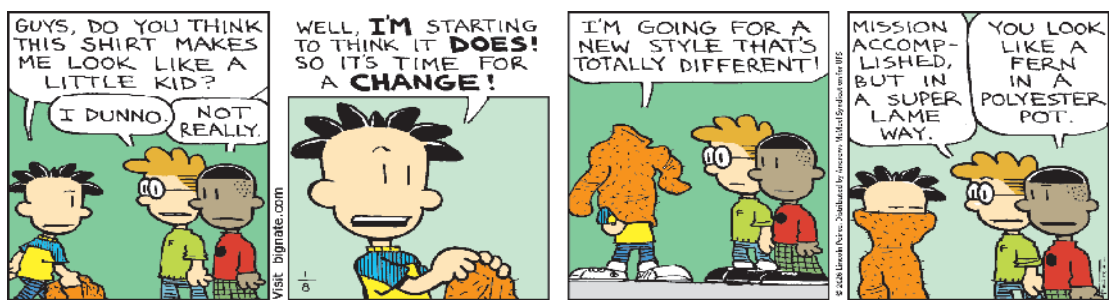
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

CATEGORIC

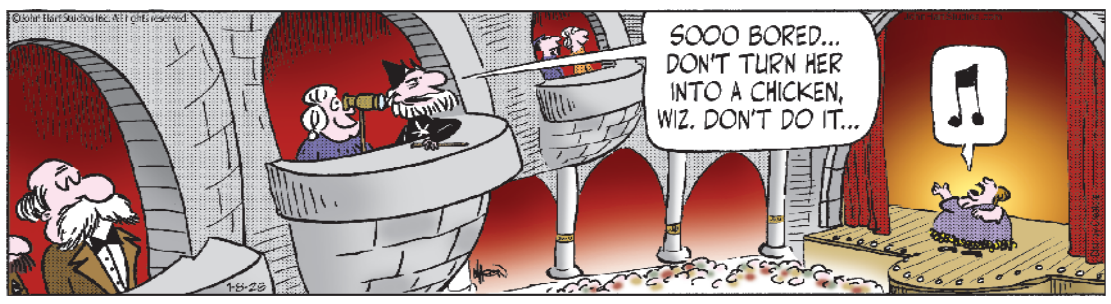
acetic acre cage cagier care caret carte CATEGORIC cater ceroc cert cite core cote crate ergo ergot erica erotic erotica gaiter gate gear geta gite goer goitre gore grace grate great irate ocrea ogre orate race rage rate react recco recto rice rite rote tare tear tier tiger tire toerag tore trace triage trice

THE METRO FUNNIES

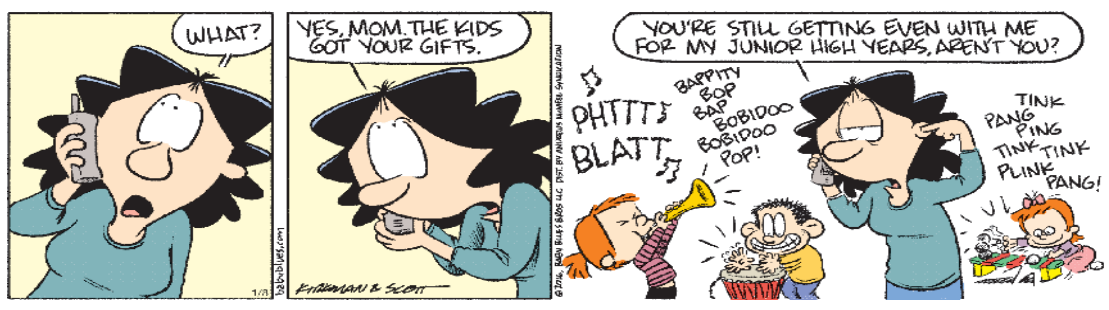
BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


GUYS, DO YOU THINK THIS SHIRT MAKES ME LOOK LIKE A LITTLE KID?
I DUNNO.
NOT REALLY.
WELL, I'M STARTING TO THINK IT DOES! SO IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!
I'M GOING FOR A NEW STYLE THAT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT!
MISSION ACCOMP-LISHED, BUT IN A SUPER LAME WAY.
YOU LOOK LIKE A FERN IN A POLYESTER POT.
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES


WHAT?
YES, MOM. THE KIDS GOT YOUR GIFTS.
YOU'RE STILL GETTING EVEN WITH ME FOR MY JUNIOR HIGH YEARS, AREN'T YOU?
PHTTT
BLATT
BAPPITY BOP BAP BOBIDOO BOBIDOO POP!
TINK PANG PING TINK-TINK PLINK PANG!

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:53pm	05:18pm	05:59pm	05:17pm	05:23pm	05:53pm
Sunrise	07:13am	07:10am	07:17am	07:01am	07:17am	07:25am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	4	15	Partly Cloudy	84	3	14	Sunny	4	14	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	7	22	Sunny	47	7	23	Sunny	7	22	Sunny
Islamabad	5	17	Sunny	49	5	16	Sunny	5	16	Sunny
Lahore	5	14	Fog	81	3	13	Fog	3	13	Fog
Multan	5	17	Partly Cloudy	86	4	16	Sunny	4	15	Sunny
Peshawar	2	19	Sunny	65	2	16	Sunny	2	16	Sunny
Quetta	-2	10	Sunny	52	-2	10	Sunny	0	11	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD

REJOICED

(REJOICED: rih-JOYS'D: Felt great joy or delight.)

Average mark 23 words
Time limit 35 minutes

Can you find 30 or more words in REJOICED?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — SHITAKE

sake	haste
saki	hate
sate	heat
seat	heist
shake	hike
shea	ikat
sheik	take
site	task
skat	teak
skate	this
skit	kite
stake	kith
steak	east
hake	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

2 Surgical
9 Ensues
10 Aped
11 Calf
13 Genie
14 Separates
16 Tessa
19 Ales
20 Lily
21 Choral
22 Tricycle.

DOWN

1 Head start
3 Use up
4 Rude
5 Geography
6 Cyan
7 Allied
8 Lifestyle
12 Feeler
15 Twirl
17 Semi
18 Bloc.

METRO EVENTS

Writers & Readers Cafe
Weekly Sitting # 149
Organizers Dr. Tanveer Anjum
اکیسویں صدی کے پچیس سال: پاکستان کا سیاسی منظر نامہ
ڈاکٹر نائلہ محمود
ڈاکٹر سید جعفر احمد
Thursday, January 8, 2026
Time: 5:30- 7:30 pm

DISCUSSION

'Ikeesveen Sadi ke Pachees Sal: Pakistan ka Siyasi Manzar Nama', a discussion under the auspices of Writers & Readers Caf , at PMA House, Garden Road, at 5:30pm.

TALK

'Commanding Change' a distinguished talk by Durdana Ansari OBE, Honorary Captain (Retd.), Royal Navy, is held at Mini Auditorium, Iqra University, at 12pm.

WORKSHOP

'Zero to Viral: The Live AI Workshop' is organised by the Centre for AI Digital Arts & Creative Design at Salim Habib University at 2pm.

SESSION

A session on 'The Art of Ethical Hacking' is organised at Iqra University, Bahria Town campus, at 3pm.

EXHIBITION

Alchemy of Becoming, an exhibition of artworks by Sarah Ahmad, opens at Koel Gallery, at 4pm. The show will continue till Jan 28.-

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

** Tread carefully at work today or with any task related to helping someone else, or when dealing with pets, because communications are confusing. This is a poor day to make a decision related to your health. In fact, postpone any important decisions until tomorrow. Tonight: Get organized.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

*** This week romance gets a lovely boost, except for today. Today self-doubt, feelings of insecurity and genuine confusion might cloud important issues. Don't make an important decision that affects your kids or a romantic partner. You will have more clarity tomorrow. Tonight: Be observant.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

** This is a poor day to ask for permission or approval from authority figures. No doubt their response will be, "Talk to the hand." Not only is your confidence weak today, you might not have all the facts. Confusion and even deception are at play. Keep a low profile. Tonight: Relax.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

** Steer clear of controversial subjects today, because they will go south in a New York minute. Judgmental attitudes and a lack of emotional flexibility will make cooperation with others difficult. Things look worse than they really are. You can't believe everything you hear. Tonight: Be aware.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

** Don't make important financial decisions today. This is also a poor day to shop, because confusion, deceit and indecision are in the picture. In addition to which, you might feel depressed, which will affect your take on things. Wait until tomorrow, which is a much better day! Tonight: Protect your assets.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

*** Play your cards close to your heaving bosom today. This is not the day to push boundaries or take a chance. For starters, someone might be fast and loose with the truth. How do you know? In addition to which, negativity pervades everything. Sit this one out. Wait until tomorrow. Tonight: Go gently.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

** Fortunately, you have a strong focus on home and family now, which is why you are best off hiding at home if you can. Issues related to your work and your health are subject to confusion and misrepresentation. You also might put the worst spin on things. (Yes, it's that kinda day.) Act tomorrow. Tonight: Watch from the sidelines.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

** Friends or members of a group might disappoint you today. This is par for the course, because conversations are confusing, even depressing. This could relate to sports, social outings or something to do with your kids. Postpone whatever you can until tomorrow, which is a better day. Tonight: Listen carefully.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

** Be aware that you're high-viz, which means people notice you today. Try to be conservative, because if you make pronouncements from on high, you might regret it. Emotional confusion, even deceit, and certainly judgmental attitudes are in the air. Go gently. Tonight: Be careful.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** Avoid discussions about politics, religion or racial issues today. They will be pointless and possibly unpleasant. Nothing effective will be accomplished. Someone might stretch the truth or make judgmental allegations. Steer clear of this. Tomorrow is a better day! Tonight: Study.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

** Postpone financial decisions about inheritances, shared property, insurance issues and debt until tomorrow, because today there's too much confusion. It's hard to know what's real. You might even be deceived. Tonight: Check the facts.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

** Today you might feel judged by someone. This might be the case, or not. What is important is how you feel. The truth of the matter is that today has an element of deceit and confusion, plus an air of depression. (Yikes.) Tomorrow is a better day. Tonight: Listen.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Silence is golden

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7
♥ Q 8 7 5 2
♦ K Q 8 7 3
♣ 7 3

WEST
♠ K
♥ A K J 3
♦ A J 6
♣ A K J 9 8

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 6 2
♥ 6 4
♦ 10 4 2
♣ 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 8 5 4 3
♥ 10 9
♦ 9 5
♣ Q 10 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead -- king of hearts.

Many years ago, B. Jay Becker, the former editor of this column, received a letter from a reader who expressed his admiration for the way Becker bid Hand No. 30 in the world championship match between Sweden and the United States in 1953!

Bursting with curiosity, Becker looked up Hand No. 30. When he reviewed the bidding (he was East), it turned out that his entire contribution consisted of passing four times in a row!

His partner, John Crawford, opened the bidding with one club. Becker had no reason to respond, so he did what most players would do -- he passed.

The Swedish South couldn't bring himself to sell out for one club, so he bid one spade. Crawford doubled for take-out, and North helped Becker out of an unpleasant predicament by bidding two diamonds. Becker passed, of course, but Crawford persisted by doubling again.

Becker naturally assumed that Crawford wanted him to bid hearts or clubs, but he found the thought of naming either suit revolting. So, he decided to pass and take his chances against two diamonds doubled.

This proved to be a lucky shot when South ran to two spades. Again, Crawford doubled, but this time when Becker passed, he was on much firmer ground.

When the smoke cleared, South had gone down four (700 points in those days). At the other table, the Swedish East-West pair landed in three notrump and went down one, so the U.S. team gained 750 points on the deal.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5294

9	8	7	6	1	4	3	5	2
4	6	5	7	3	2	8	1	9
1	3	2	9	8	5	4	6	7
2	1	9	8	4	6	5	7	3
3	7	8	1	5	9	2	4	6
5	4	6	3	2	7	9	8	1
6	2	3	5	7	8	1	9	4
7	5	1	4	9	3	6	2	8
8	9	4	2	6	1	7	3	5

Tricky — B5294

5	1	7	2	9	8	4	3	6
4	2	8	7	6	3	5	1	9
9	6	3	4	1	5	8	7	2
3	9	4	8	7	6	2	5	1
1	5	6	9	2	4	7	8	3
8	7	2	5	3	1	6	9	4
6	8	9	1	4	7	3	2	5
2	4	5	3	8	9	1	6	7
7	3	1	6	5	2	9	4	8